



# Thornton Fractional

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 215  
BURNHAM • CALUMET CITY • LANSING • LYNWOOD

June 12, 2020

Dear District 215 Students, Families, Staff, and Community,

We are writing to you to acknowledge and reflect on the recent racially motivated murders of People of Color in our nation. The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many other Black and Brown individuals have sickened us, angered us, and saddened us beyond words. As your elected school board members, we believe it is vitally important that we publicly condemn these acts and acknowledge that racism and racial trauma have deeply impacted our District 215 students, families, staff, and communities.

To our TF North, TF South, and TF Center students—we see you, we stand with you, and we know we must work tirelessly to ensure your educational environment is free from racist acts, words, and policies. Through our curriculum rewriting efforts, we will continue to examine and adapt our curriculum to include and honor more voices of Black and Brown people. We recognize that we also need to diligently develop safe processes to express school-related concerns that are racial in nature. We will continue to work hard to ensure that we are actively recruiting and retaining faculty and staff of Color to more closely align to our student demographics.

To our faculty and staff who are Persons of Color— we stand with you in solidarity not just today but will continue to stand with you. We invite and welcome your voices at our Board meetings. We affirm that your presence and work with our students and in our buildings is of utmost importance. We are so grateful for you. To our white faculty and staff members- we are calling on you to join us in becoming stronger allies to our students and colleagues who are Persons of Color. We are asking you to join us in doing the hard work of reading difficult books and articles, listening to voices with very different lived experiences, and reflecting on realities that are neither comfortable nor easy to acknowledge.

And to the communities of Burnham, Calumet City, Lansing, and Lynwood that make up District 215— we recognize that our commitment and duty to confront racist words, actions, and policies extends beyond our duties as board members. We have an obligation to hold ourselves accountable, and we also have an obligation to promptly and unapologetically confront the overt and subtle racism encountered in our families, neighborhoods, community gatherings, and social media. We look forward to working together in demanding change and holding accountable those that engage in hateful acts against Persons of Color.

It is an honor and privilege to serve the students, families, staff, and communities of District 215.

Yours in Solidarity,

District 215 Board of Education